Rights of the Child

1. Put children first.
2. Care for every child.
4. Leave no child behind.
5. Educate every child.
6. Protect children from harm and exploitation.
7. Protect children from war.
8. Combat HIV and AIDS.
9. Listen to children, and be sure they participate.
10. Protect the Earth for children.

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Put children first.

In all actions related to children, if adults remember what would be in our best interests, then we will be loved and cared for and guided and we will grow properly. If we are not looked after by our parents and families, it should be done by the communities that we live in and our government.

Wipe out poverty: invest in children.

We want poverty to go away within a single generation. If you uphold our rights, then the rights of everyone else will be upheld, and that will wipe out poverty. We also need you to make a difference immediately to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

Leave no child behind.

Each girl and boy is born free and equal. Our rights are the same for kids everywhere, no matter who we are, where we live, what language we speak, what culture and religion we follow, if we are disabled, or if we are a boy or a girl. We may all be different, but we are all equal.

Care for every child.

If we get sick or are hurt, we should be seen by good doctors and treated so we can get well. We should have vaccinations to protect us from disease. We need nutritious food, clean water, and a safe environment to grow up in. Kids must get the best possible start in life. If we are disabled, we should be given special care and treatment.

Educate every child.

All kids should be able to go to school. Our education should teach us to live together with respect and peace. Our schooling should be free, required until a certain age, and of good quality, open to boys and girls equally. It should include activities like art, drama, music, and sports.

Protect children from harm and exploitation.

Kids should be looked after. This means we should be protected from all kinds of abuse and violence. We should be protected from using or selling drugs and from being kidnapped or sold. If we choose to work, we should have safe conditions to work in. If we have committed a crime, we should be given a fair and quick trial in a juvenile court, and not sentenced for life or to death.

Protect children from war.

Kids must be protected from war and not be made to serve as soldiers. If we become refugees, we should be given special protection and care.

Combat HIV and AIDS.

Kids must be protected from HIV/AIDS. When our families get HIV/AIDS, we are often left homeless, parentless, and end up in orphanages.

Listen to children, and be sure they participate.

Kids are capable of helping to build a better future for everyone. We have opinions and a right to express ourselves and should be able to take part in making decisions about things that affect us, according to our age. Because we are aware of our rights, we can take responsibility to do our part, too.

Protect the Earth for children.

Our natural environment, with its diversity of life, its beauty, and its resources, must be kept safe for us and for future generations. The wise use of our land and resources should be our stewardship.